

MASSACRE
OF
IRISH
PROTESTANTS.

Will the Assassins go Unpunished?

To Exterminate Protestantism.

Appalling Crimes in Southern Ireland,

A massacre of Protestants has taken place in Southern Ireland. The victims in some cases were elderly men and in others mere boys. Hundreds of families fled in terror.

Speaking at the Dail Eireann in Dublin on 28th April, 1922, Sean M'Entee declared: "We are on the verge of Civil War in Ireland; let there be no mistake about that."

Are these foul murders of humble Christians the beginning of a war to exterminate the Protestants?

The massacre commenced at Dinnamway late on Wednesday night, 26th April, 1922, when Mr. Francis Fitzmaurice, aged 72, a prominent solicitor; Mr. James Buttiner, aged 82, retired draper; and Mr. D. S. Gray, aged 54, a cleaner and a native of Cavan, were dragged from their homes and shot dead.

Other Protestant residents of Dinnamway, fearing for their safety, fled from their houses in their night clothes and took refuge in the fields. These included the rector (Rev. Z. W. Miller) and the Methodist clergyman, Rev. Alfred Harbison.

Dinnamway is situated on the Cork, Brandon and South Coast railway, the next station (nearer Cork city) being Ballyneen, the next Enniskillen, and the next Murragh, all within a few miles of one another. It was to this area that the assassins proceeded on the following night (Thursday), Clonakilly, about ten miles south, being also visited. There was another night of terror, and on the morning of Friday, 28th April, it was found that fourteen more victims of the vendetta had been claimed.

One of the victims was a son of Rev. Richard C. M. Harbord, B.D., of Murragh Rectory, their residence being situated about one mile east of Enniskillen.

Another was Gerald Peyton, aged about twenty, of Ballyneen. This young man, a native of the district, had been away for some years and returned about last July.

The next to be shot dead was John Chimney, unmarried, aged 32, a farmer, residing on his farm, about one mile on the Ballyneen side of Castlebow, Kinnearagh. One account of his murder states that in the middle of the night occupants of the house were awakened by loud knocking at the door. Chimney himself answered the summons. He was ordered out to the yard and there commanded by the armed party responsible for assassinating him from sleep to yoke a horse to a cart in his shed. While engaged in this task he was shot dead.

The fourth man to meet a violent death was Robert Howe married, aged about 60 years, a farmer, residing about half a mile west of Castlebow, Kinnearagh.

Robert Neale, unmarried, aged about 18, of Mountain Hill, Clonakilly, son of Thomas Neale, process server, sheriff's officer, and caretaker of the Masonic Lodge, Kent Street, Clonakilly, which was arranged some time ago, was the last victim of the bullets of the raiders, who appear to have been relentless in carrying out their terrible purpose.

Armed men called at the residence of John Braddell, a Protestant farmer, of Killowen Cottage, Brandon, and shot him dead. About fourteen

months ago another member of this old West Cork family was shot dead by unknown men.

In the case of James Buttiner, his widow, Clara Buttiner, 90 years, stated that in the morning about 1 o'clock in response to knocking at the front door she lit a candle and came down to the hall with her husband. He opened the door and said "What do you want, boys?" They said, "We want to talk to you." She said "Sure you would not take a poor man like him." They said "Go to bed. We don't want you." Her husband said "Surely you would take an old man of 82 years." Shots were fired at him, when he dropped down and never spoke again.

Mrs. Alice Gray wept as she described the shooting of her husband, David Gray, solicitor. There was knocking, thumping, and shouting at the door. The door was burst in. Her husband went down and said "Who is there? What do you want?" She then heard a shot and her husband falling. More shots were then fired and she heard voices saying "Take that, and that." She did not come down as she stayed with the children. When she went down later her husband was dead. The body was lying on the door-step partly out.

Mr. Fitzmaurice was found also in the hall, and he only lived three or four minutes. About twelve shots were fired in volleys at him.

A gang of ruffians raided the residence of Captain Charles Barton, D.L., of Fethard, Co. Tipperary, and ordered him and his family to leave within half-an-hour, because, said, the raiders, "You are Protestants." Captain Barton, and his family were forced out of the house before they had time to take all their clothes.

Murders of Protestants in the West Cork area were very frequent in 1919, 1920, and 1921. During that time many farmers were taken out of their beds and shot; others were held up on the road and deliberately murdered on various pretexts. Among the unfortunate victims were Messrs. Connell and Sweetnam from Skibbereen district, Messrs. Thomas and William Bradfield, and Mr. Alfred Cotter, from Brandon district; Mr. John Good and his son, Captain Good, from Clonakilly district; Lieut.-Colonel Peadar O'Connell from Fishamblee; while in the city of Cork, and the East, Riding of Carr there were numerous similar cases, such as Messrs. Reilly, Peale, and Cahart. Scores of other Protestant families from Earl of Brandon to humbler folk had their homes burnt out in the same period. Hundreds of Protestants cleared out of the country to Canada, to England, to Ulster, anywhere, to get away from the Sinn Feiners.

Clearing out the Loyalists.

How the Campaign goes on.

The Protestant Archbishop of Dublin (Most Rev. Dr. Gregg) speaking at the unveiling of a war memorial at Dundrum, Co. Dublin, on 2nd May, 1922, said:—The reason for this organised massacre I cannot conceive, unless it be, indeed, as has been suggested, by way of reprisal. But I fail to see what is the connection between these residents in the west of Co. Cork and the troubles in the North. No; I cannot see any intelligible cause for this declaration of war upon a defenceless community. I call upon the Government of this country to take the necessary steps to protect a grievously-wounded minority, and to defend the Protestants of West Cork from a repetition of these atrocities.

A large number of the Protestant families in the parish of Timahoe (Queen's County) have received notice to give up their holdings, and some have already been evicted. These operations are carried out by a body of armed raiders describing themselves as a committee, and consist of Republican and members of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

One farmer, Thomas Stone, recently bought a farm from Thomas Mullins for £5,000. On 22nd March, 1922, the committee informed Stone to have the land cleared by 26th March. Stone had been driven off the lands on 26th March, and on the same day Mullins, who had remained in the house, was put out of it by a body of raiders and forced to give up the key to them. On 19th April a member of the committee informed Stone that they would get notices on Friday, 21st April, to clear out by that day week.

On 18th April about 100 men arrived on the farm of Joseph Stone, another parishioner, and proceeded to evict him with his wife and eight small children. They were all put out on the roadside.

Another Protestant farmer, Robert Stanley Falloberg, was informed that on 21st April he would receive notice to clear out on 28th with his wife and eight children, the eldest a girl of fourteen, and the youngest only four years old. He had eight Irish acres of oats sown.

The following notice was posted on a house recently occupied by William Stanley, who has been already evicted with his nine children: "Take notice that any person entering these lands will do so at their own risk."

On April 24 the Protestant Parochial Hall, Timahoe, was forcibly taken possession of. The following Protestant families, with their dependants, in the parish of Timahoe have received notices to leave or have been already put out:—

Mr. and Mrs. James Stanley, seven children, eldest 14, youngest 1 year 9 months. Also James Stanley's mother, aged 77.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stone, three children, eldest 5, youngest 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Kavanagh, three children, eldest 6, youngest 2.

Robert Waddock, two children, eldest 4, youngest 18 months.

Mr. and Mrs. William Kavanagh, one son 21 years, one 16, and daughter 13.

Samuel Carter, two children, son 25, daughter 22.

Philip Stone, one son 22, daughter 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sythes, three sons, youngest 15.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ewart, with a daughter aged 25, have been informed that the order has been cancelled for the time being.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kavanagh, one son aged 27, and granddaughter 16.

Mr. and Mrs. James Haynes, one son aged 20, daughter 13.

What has happened means that the Church of Ireland, parish of Timahoe, is practically wiped out. All the lands in question form part of what was formerly the Lamstowne estate forty years ago. Then the tenants joined the Plan of Campaign and were eventually evicted. The present occupiers or their predecessors had been continuously in occupation since, and had purchased their holdings from the Marquis of Lansdowne.

Summary Roman Catholic families holding lands under similar conditions have not been touched or notified to give up any of their lands.

The "Leinster Express," of April 22, describes three evictions in the adjoining parish of Stradbally of Protestant farmers named Neill, O'Neill, and Cole. These farms were acquired from Lord Lansdowne by the late Col. Crosby, and the three tenants held under him. Two of them are farms of over 100 acres.

Protestant residents in South Donegal have received notice ordering them to clear out. Those warned include a Church of Ireland rector, farmers who have bought out their land, and inhabitants who own the houses in which they reside. While not obeying the orders, they are living in a state of constant apprehension.

In consequence of threats, Rev. J. P. Montgomery, Presbyterian minister, Clonmel, has left the town.

The same object is being pursued in the organised attacks on Masonic Halls, many of which have already been partly or completely destroyed. Sinn Fein knows that this institution, although non-political, numbers among its members scarcely any but those who have been loyal to the King and Empire.

Ulster Appeals for Justice.

Save Ulster from Sinn Fein Slavery.

English Woman's Telling Letter. Theft, Kidnapping and Murder.

The Protestants of South and West Cork are living in a state of most abject terror because of the shooting of members of their creed. There is a substantial Protestant population in this county. Farmers of the well-to-do class, scores of them are remaining out in the fields all night, afraid to remain in their houses. . . . The plight of Protestant women and children is pitiable. They remain at home, but most of the elder folk remain up in turns to keep watch. Many Protestant shopkeepers have left Bandon, Dunmanway, and Clonakilty, and have gone to other places, some to England. (From "Irish Independent," Dublin 5th May, 1922).

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING POST.

SIR,—Your information from this country is extraordinarily correct. Many of us are wondering how you manage to get it through. But even you do not entirely understand the conditions of savagery under which we are groaning. The Provisional Government professes to be taking all steps to discover the murderers, kidnapers, and thieves. Believe me, it requires no effort—they are going about quite openly, and are known to everyone. Our town is packed with motors, all driven quite openly by the men who stole them; the motors (some beautiful cars) in every stage of dirt and dilapidation. They take them, with every sort of insolent and threatening impertinence, in the dead of night, at the point of the revolver. Occasionally it is by daylight when the occupants, including ladies, are rudely ordered out. You reported the case of a "Commandant" last week, "brutally shot in the execution of his duty," as G.H.Q. put it. The facts were that the unfortunate Protestant farmers had endured the most awful persecution. When these raiders, headed by a jailbird "Commandant," broke into their house in the dead of night, one of the sons fired a shot in self defence, and was promptly hauled off on a charge of deliberate murder. He no doubt will be shot or hanged.

The victims of the kidnapers suffer appalling agony and misery. An English Government official was kidnapped last week at a well-known County Cork town. For one night only, the result of the suffering he endured is such that his nerve is completely shattered, and he is leaving the country at once, for ever.

Among our local brave soldiers of the Republic are a group of heroic fellows who were under sentence of death for murders and ambushes of English soldiers. When the "Truce" came they were let loose among us. They now spend their nights breaking into gentlemen's and farmers' houses, stealing their motors, threatening the inhabitants with death, and behaving generally in a way savages would not be guilty of. Last week a very respectable lad, a boy of twelve, was unmercifully beaten and ill-treated, and shot, but fortunately only slightly wounded, by a party of young braves (all armed with revolvers), because he refused to join the local Boy Scouts.

I cannot speak of the awful murders of last week, except to assure you that Collins's tears are those of the walrus, and his hypocrisy makes one sick. With him you may bracket the R.C.

Bishop of Cork. What a legacy have Lloyd George and his Government left us!—Yours, &c.,
AN UNFORTUNATE ENGLISH

WOMAN IN IRELAND.

Cork, 5th May, 1922.

About fifty refugees from Southern Ireland were received on 8th May, 1922, at the British House of Commons, with Sir John Butcher in the chair. It was stated that during the past week the campaign of terrorism has been intensified; that houses and property were being seized everywhere, the owners driven out and all their personal belongings confiscated; and that thousands of men and women were at the present time in imminent danger. After the withdrawal of the deputation, a private discussion took place amongst the M.P.'s present, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting of members of the House of Commons, having heard the statements of a number of refugees from Southern Ireland, which prove that many murders have been committed, and that a wholesale system of robbery and expropriation by terrorism prevails in many parts, making it impossible for loyal subjects to remain in that country, earnestly begs the Government (a) in urgent cases, where compensation has already been awarded and not paid, to make an advance in respect of compensation awarded; and (b) in cases arising since the truce in July, 1921, where no compensation has yet been obtainable, to place a sum of money at the disposal of the Chief Secretary for Ireland to alleviate cases of urgent distress, which sum should be ultimately recovered from the Irish Free State Government."

The case of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Talbot, of Mount Talbot, Roscommon, is peculiarly atrocious. Mr. Talbot, who is about 50 years of age, is his Majesty's Lieutenant for County Roscommon, a man who has injured nobody, and an invalid. Following an unsuccessful night attack on the house, a large armed party raided it in April, 1922 and seized Mr. Talbot, roughly dragging his wife from the room. After a pretence at a "court martial," Mr. Talbot was taken outside, ill-treated, and knocked down the stone steps. Two shots were fired over his head, and he was left lying senseless. The ruffians returned to the house and told Mrs. Talbot that her husband had been shot, and that she "would find him outside." The party also seized the chauffeur, tied him up and threw him into the river. Fortunately he fell into a shallow part, and was saved, but Mrs. Talbot died two days later from shock.

What Will Britain Do?

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